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D3239-00002

II. Claims

Claims 1-6, 8-14, 16-22, 24 and 26-34 are currently pending. Claims 1, 9, 17 and 26 have been amended as set forth below. The present version and listing of the claims replaces all prior versions and listings of the claims.

1. (currently amended) A method of redacting content from a document in electronic form, comprising the steps of:

selecting a geometric area on the document for redaction, said geometric area having content comprising at least one image;

representing said geometric area as one or more annotation objects;

identifying information in the document representing content and location and nature of content;

representing said identified information as one or more content objects, said one or more content objects comprising one or more image occurrence objects;

identifying content having the same geometric location as said annotation objects;

removing said identified content; and

creating an electronic output file, said output file comprising said identified information except for portions of said information corresponding to said identified content not present in said output file, a redacted document being producible from said output file for display.

2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein one or more items of information are associated with said annotation object.

3. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the content further comprises text and said one or more content objects further comprise one or more text

DM2\730501.1

PATENT

D3239-00002

occurrence objects.

4. (previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the redacted text and redacted at least one image are not found in the redacted document.

5. (previously presented) A computer implemented method for designating portions of a document for redaction, comprising the steps of:

displaying all or a portion of the document;

designating a geographic region of the document for redaction; and

saving the designations with the document,

wherein said step of designating comprises manipulating a frame displayed on the document, content having a geographic location within said frame being visible to the user during said step of manipulation, said content comprising at least one image.

6. (original) The method of claim 5, further comprising the step of associating one or more codes with each of said designations.

7. (canceled)

8. (previously presented) The method of claim 5, wherein said content further comprises text, wherein said step of designating comprises designating all geographic regions containing content selected by a user for batch designation.

9. (currently amended) A storage medium having stored therein a plurality of instructions, wherein the plurality of instructions, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform the steps of:

permitting a user to select a geometric area on a document for redaction;

representing said geometric area as one or more annotation objects;

identifying information in the document representing content and location and nature of content, said content comprising at least one image;

DM2\730501.1

PATENT

D3239-00002

representing said identified information as one or more content objects, said one or more content objects comprising one or more image occurrence objects;

identifying content having the same geometric location as said annotation objects;

removing said identified content; and

creating an electronic output file, said output file comprising said identified information except for portions of said information corresponding to said identified content not present in said output file, a redacted document being producible from said output file.

10. (original) The storage medium of claim 9, wherein one or more items of information are associated with said annotation object.

11. (previously presented) The storage medium of claim 9, wherein the content further comprises text and said one or more content objects further comprise one or more text occurrence objects.

12. (previously presented) The storage medium of claim 11, wherein the text and at least one image marked for redaction have been removed in the redacted document.

13. (previously presented) A storage medium having stored therein a plurality of instructions, wherein the plurality of instructions, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform the steps of:

displaying all or a portion of a document;

permitting a user to designate a geographic region of the document for redaction; and
saving the designation with the document;

wherein said step of designating comprises manipulating a frame displayed on the document, content having a geographic location within said frame being visible to the user during said step of manipulation, said content comprising at least one image.

14. (original) The storage medium of claim 13, wherein said plurality of instructions,

DM2\730501.1

PATENT

D3239-00002

when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform the further step of associating one or more codes with each of said designations.

15. (canceled)

16. (previously presented) The storage medium of claim 13, wherein said content further comprises text, wherein said step of permitting a user to designate comprises permitting a user to select content for batch designation and designating all geographic regions containing said selected content.

17. (currently amended) A system for redacting content from a document in electronic form, comprising:

means for permitting a user to select a geometric area on the document for redaction;

means for representing said geometric area as one or more annotation objects;

means for identifying information in the document representing content and location and nature of content, said content comprising at least one image;

means for representing said identified information as one or more content objects, said one or more content objects comprising one or more image occurrence objects; and

means for identifying content having the same geometric location as said annotation objects;

means for removing said identified content, and

means for creating an electronic output file, said output file comprising said identified information except for portions of said information corresponding to said identified content not present in said output file, a redacted document being producible from said output file.

18. (original) The system of claim 17, wherein one or more items of information are

DM2V730501.1

PATENT

D3239-00002

associated with said annotation object.

19. (previously presented) The system of claim 17, wherein the content further comprises text and said one or more content objects further comprise one or more text occurrence objects.

20. (original) The system of claim 17, wherein the information to be redacted is not found in the redacted document.

21. (previously presented) A computer implemented system for designating portions of a document for redaction, comprising the steps of:

means for displaying all or a portion of the document;

means for permitting a user to designate a geographic region of the document for redaction, said permitting means comprising means for manipulating a frame displayed on the document while content having a geographic location within said frame is visible to the user, said content comprising at least one image; and

means for saving the designations with the document.

22. (original) The system of claim 21, further comprising means for associating one or more codes with each of said designations.

23. (canceled)

24. (previously presented) The system of claim 21, wherein said content further comprises text, wherein said means for permitting a user to designate comprises permitting a user to select content for batch designation and means for designating all geographic regions containing said selected content.

25. (canceled)

26. (currently amended) A computer implemented method of redacting content from a document in portable document format (PDF) comprising a PDF data stream, comprising

DM2\730501.1

PATENT

D3239-00002

the steps of:

selecting a first geometric area on the document for redaction, said first geometric area having content comprising at least one image;

selecting a second geometric area on the document for redaction, said second geometric area having content comprising text;

representing said geometric areas as annotation objects;

parsing said document into one or more content objects representing content and location and nature of content in said document, said one or more content objects comprising one or more text occurrence objects and one or more image occurrence objects;

identifying content from said one or more content objects having the same geometric location as said annotation objects; and

creating an output PDF file comprising said PDF data stream except for portions of said PDF data stream corresponding to having said identified content removed therefrom, wherein a redacted document is producible from said output PDF file.

27. (previously presented) The method of Claim 26, wherein said selecting step comprises:

displaying all or a portion of the document; and

manipulating a frame displayed on the document, content having a geographic location within said frame being visible to the user during said step of manipulation.

28. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein said information identifying step comprises:

displaying all or a portion of the document; and

manipulating a frame displayed on the document, content having a geographic

PATENT

D3239-00002

location within said frame being visible to the user during said step of manipulation.

29. (previously presented) The storage medium of Claim 9, wherein the information identifying step comprises:

displaying all or a portion of the document; and

manipulating a frame displayed on the document, content having a geographic location within said frame being visible to the user during said step of manipulation.

30. (previously presented) The system of claim 17, wherein the information identifying means comprises:

means for displaying all or a portion of the document; and

means for manipulating a frame displayed on the document, content having a geographic location within said frame being visible to the user during said step of manipulation.

31. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said removing step comprises replacing pixels corresponding to said identified content.

32. (previously presented) The medium of claim 9, wherein said removing step comprises replacing pixels corresponding to said identified content.

33. (previously presented) The medium of claim 17, wherein said means for removing said identified content replaces pixels corresponding to said identified content.

34. (previously presented) The method of claim 26 further comprising the step of

PATENT

D3239-00002

Claim 1 recites the step of identifying information (i.e., the underlying instruction data) in the document that represents content and location and nature of content. Claims 1, 9 and 17 have been amended to recite as follows: creating an electronic output file, said output file comprising said identified information except for portions of said information corresponding to said identified content, a redacted document being producible from said output file for display." In other words, Claim 1 recites that the underlying instruction set (i.e., the "identified information")

PATENT

D3239-00002

In contrast to the suggested combination, the redaction method of Applicant's amended Claims 1, 9 and 17 preserve the original instruction set except for the portion of the instruction set that corresponds to the redacted content, i.e., the claims now recite that the created electronic output file includes "said identified information except for portions of said information corresponding to said identified content."

For at least these reasons, it is submitted that combination suggested by the Examiner does not teach each feature of Claims 1, 9 and 17. Claims 1, 9 and 17, therefore, are not obvious from and are allowable over the cited combination. For analogous reasons, Claims 2-4, 10-12, 18-20, 28-33, which depend from these claims, are also allowable.

(b) Independent Claims 5, 13 and 21

Using independent Claim 5 as an example, Independent Claim 5 is directed to a method for designating portions of a document comprising content including at least one image for redaction. Among other steps, Claim 5 recites "designating a geographic region of the document for redaction" and "saving the designations with the document." In the rejection, the Examiner finds that Anderson does not disclose saving designations with the document. The Examiner then relies on SnagIt for supplying this feature. More specifically, the Examiner concludes that saving the captured screen shot meets the limitation of "saving the designations with the document." It is submitted that the Examiner has misconstrued this feature. The Examiner's analysis essentially considers the limitation to be the same as a step of saving the redacted document. This is not the case. Rather, Claim 5 requires that it is the "designations [of the geographic region of the document for redaction]" that are saved "with the document", i.e., with the original document. For at least these reasons, SnagIt does not provide this missing feature.

Still further, Claim 5 recites that the designating step includes the step of manipulating a frame displayed on the document where content having a geographical location within the frame is visible to the user during the manipulation step. The manipulable frame is shown, for example, as window 45 in FIG. 2 of Applicants' disclosure.

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PATENT

D3239-00002

The Examiner concludes that Anderson teaches this feature in Column 6, Lines 12-20 and in Figures 3A-3B and 4. It appears from a reading of the rejection that the Examiner is focusing on the displayed annotated document of Anderson, as opposed to the actual method Anderson uses to designate areas for annotation/redaction. Indeed, Figures 3A-3B and 4 of Anderson show the display of the annotated documents having annotation blocks overlaid onto the document.

The portion of Anderson's disclosure upon which the focus must lie is on **how the system of Anderson enables the user to add the overlays**, not the display of the already

annotated document. Anderson's discloses only that the user can specify the characteristics and

PATENT

D3239-00002

(c) Claims 31-33

Claims 31-33 depend from independent Claims 1, 9 and 17 and are, therefore, allowable for at least the reasons set forth above.

Still further, Claims 31-33 each recite that the removal step comprises "replacing pixels corresponding to the identified content." Applicants submit that the Examiner concedes that Anderson does not teach this feature. Indeed, Anderson accomplishes visual modification using overlays, not replacement of pixels. The Examiner then argues that because SnagIt "teaches permanent flattening of a file, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art . . . to implement redaction via pixel by pixel replacement." As discussed above, SnagIt produces an image file that is a "screen capture." As a screen capture, it is not replacing anything; rather, SnagIt essentially takes a photo of whatever is displayed on the screen. Combining this screen capture feature with the redaction method of Anderson does not provide the step of "replacing pixels corresponding to the identified content." Indeed, nothing is replaced. Rather, an entire new image file is created.

For at least these additional reasons, it is submitted that Claims 31-33 are independently allowable over the cited combination.

2. Claims 3-4, 11-12, 19, 26-27 and 34

The Action rejects Claims 3-4, 11-12, 19, 26-27 and 34 as being obvious from the Anderson/SnagIt combination in further view of Redax. Claims 3-4, 11-12 and 19 depend from Claims 1, 9 and 17, which are allowable as set forth above.

Amended independent Claims 26 recites that the electronic document comprises a PDF data stream and that the created output PDF file comprises "said PDF data stream except for portions of said PDF data stream corresponding to said identified content." As explained above, the combination of Anderson and SnagIt does not preserve the non-redacted portions of the underlying instruction set, here the PDF data stream. Therefore, for reasons analogous to those

DM2\730501.1

PATENT

D3239-00002

argued above in connection with Claims 1, 9 and 17, it is submitted that independent Claim 26 is allowable over the cited combination. Claims 27 and 34 depend from Claim 26 and are, therefore, also allowable.

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